

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 23 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 10:55 a.m.)

REQUEST TO EXTEND DEBATE ON IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY RESOLUTION

□ 1055

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the debate on House Resolution 581 regarding proceeding with an impeachment inquiry be expanded to the time of 8 hours.

The SPEAKER. The Chair is constrained not to recognize the gentleman for that purpose at this time.

AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I call up H. Res. 581, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 581

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary, acting as a whole or by any subcommittee thereof appointed by the chairman for the purposes hereof and in accordance with the rules of the committee, is authorized and directed to investigate fully and completely whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its constitutional power to impeach William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America. The committee shall report to the House of Representatives such resolutions, articles of impeachment, or other recommendations as it deems proper.

SEC. 2. (a) For the purpose of making such investigation, the committee is authorized to require—

(1) by subpoena or otherwise—

(A) the attendance and testimony of any person (including at a taking of a deposition by counsel for the committee); and

(B) the production of such things; and

(2) by interrogatory, the furnishing of such information;

as it deems necessary to such investigation.

(b) Such authority of the committee may be exercised—

(1) by the chairman and the ranking minority member acting jointly, or, if either declines to act, by the other acting alone, except that in the event either so declines, either shall have the right to refer to the committee for decision the question whether such authority shall be so exercised and the committee shall be convened promptly to render that decision; or

(2) by the committee acting as a whole or by subcommittee.

Subpoenas and interrogatories so authorized may be issued over the signature of the chairman, or ranking minority member, or any member designated by either of them, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman, or ranking minority member, or any member designated by either of them. The chairman, or ranking minority member, or any member designated by either of them (or, with respect to any deposition, answer to interrogatory, or affidavit,

any person authorized by law to administer oaths) may administer oaths to any witness. For the purposes of this section, "things" includes, without limitation, books, records, correspondence, logs, journals, memorandums, papers, documents, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, reproductions, recordings, tapes, transcripts, printouts, data compilations from which information can be obtained (translated if necessary, through detection devices into reasonably usable form), tangible objects, and other things of any kind.

The SPEAKER. The resolution, since reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, constitutes a question of privilege and may be called up at this time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, while the normal procedure grants 1 hour of debate on a privileged resolution, I propose doubling that time.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 2 hours for the debate on H. Res. 581, 1 hour of which I intend to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CONYERS) for the purposes of debate only. And anybody on my side who was constrained to object, I hope they will withhold their objection so we can have the 2 hours of debate.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I appreciate the unanimous consent that is being put forward, and ask my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, if he would add 2 hours to that request, please.

I understand the exigencies of the moment, but I have enormous pressure being put upon the ranking member for Members to merely have a chance to get in a brief expression on this historic occasion, and I ask that the gentleman give that his most generous consideration.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I can only say that we have had extensive discussions and I am fearful that there would be several objectors to that. So, I am constrained to offer the extra hour only and not go beyond that.

I would suggest a special order tonight where everybody can speak as long and as loudly as they want.

□ 1100

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) is recognized for 2 hours.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 1 hour to the distinguished minority ranking member on the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr.

CONYERS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, considering the historical importance of this vote today and the precedent we will set for decades to come, would it be within the rules of the House for me at this time to ask unanimous consent that each Member of this House, who feels in his or her conscience that he or she would want to speak for 2 minutes on this issue, be allowed that opportunity as they try to represent the 560,000 people in their district?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is not recognized for that purpose, and the House has already established by unanimous consent the 2-hour time limit.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER. There is no request to be objected to at this time, but the Chair would be glad to recognize the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. DINGELL. Then I will make this a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

Why is it we are not being afforded more time to debate this? This is one of the most important questions—

The SPEAKER. That is not a parliamentary inquiry, but that might be raised during debate, if the gentleman gets time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. I would like to inquire if a unanimous consent request is in order.

The SPEAKER. That would not be in order at this time unless the gentleman from Illinois yielded for that purpose.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) controls the time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Will the gentleman yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I must insist on regular order or we will not get through with this, so I cannot yield for a unanimous consent request.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 581, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, we are just asking for fairness.

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) object?

Mr. ACKERMAN. In that case, Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER. Objection is heard.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).